Orange County Industrial Development Agency

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Audit Committee Minutes Thursday, March 9, 2023

Due to the declaration of a public health emergency and the social distancing requirements imposed at the Federal, State and local level, this meeting was held in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 by video/telephone conference that was made available to the public.

Committee Members Present: Susan Walski, Marc Greene, James Rinaldi

Other Board Members Present: Dean Tamburri

Staff Present: Bill Fioravanti, Kelly Reilly, Dean Brady (AV, via Zoom)

<u>Others Present</u>: Melissa Szot, Coleen Harris (PKF O'Connor Davies), George Thompson (LAN Associates), Derek Longo, Evan Kaplan, Mario Titolo, Reuben Goldstein (Convergent Energy and Power)

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Walski called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Mr. Fioravanti acknowledged all the Committee members present.

IV. New Business

2022 Financial Audit Review - PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP: Ms. Szot gave an overview of the 2022 audit in draft form for the OCIDA and the OCFC and reviewed what the firm's responsibility was in performing the audit to ensure that the OCIDA's current controls keeps them in compliance. She reported no fraud or deficiency for 2022 and recommended formalized documenting for credit card usage. She noted the decrease of operating revenue and expenses, the increase of interest income and the effect that phasing out the Business Accelerators had on the bottom line as well as recent payments made to the Agents of the IDA as voted upon by the

current Board. Ms. Reilly will send the 2022 Audit draft to the full Board for review in preparation for the full Board meeting.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT OF THE 2022 OCIDA AND OCFC AUDIT SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE FULL BOARD WAS MADE BY MR. GREENE, SECONDED BY MR. TAMBURRI, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

West Warwick Energy Storage 1, 2, & 3 exemption requests: Mr. Fioravanti explained the reason why a project would make such a request and noted that it is typically due to specialty items to maintain equipment warranties. Mr. Thompson noted that the West Warwick 1 site is completed and in the testing phase, the West Warwick 2 site has received shipment of the batteries which they will hook up and later test, and the West Warwick site is slated to begin in the next several weeks. Members of the Board suggested including a questionnaire in the application process that asks specifically whether the project anticipates the need for specialty exemptions. The Board discussed creating a database of local unions that can do specialized work. The Board also discussed ensuring open dialogue between local labor monitors and general contractors to avoid projects from starting before exemptions are discussed. Mr. Longo noted that he developed Convergent's contract to include the OCIDA's requirements and shared it with the general contractor and stated that Powin Centipede System requested the exemptions because they already had approved sub-contractors. Mr. Fioravanti stated that exemptions are often problematic, and he would like to discuss ways on making it work better for the projects while still maintaining the 85% local labor standard.

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FOUR LOCAL LABOR LAW VERIFIED EXEMPTION REQUEST AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY COMMITTEE CHAIR WALSKI, SECONDED BY MR. RINALDI, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Adjournment

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING WAS MADE BY COMMITTEE CHAIR WALSKI, SECONDED BY MR. GREENE, AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6:47 PM.